(b) if so, to what extent various activities of Paradeep port is privatised; and

(c) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T. G. VENKATRAMAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No activity at Paradip Port has been privatised so far.

(c) Does Not arise.

Privatisation of Ports

135. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have announced a new policy for privatisation of ports in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps taken to attract private investment for creation of new ports in different parts of the country; and

(d) the details of the response of the private sector to the offer made by Government in that regard?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T. G. VENKATRAMAN): (a) and (b) The Government has issued clear and transparent guidelines for private sector participation in Major Ports to cover the following areas:—

(1) Leasing out existing assets of the port.

(2) Construction/Creation of additional assets, such as:—

(i) Construction and operation of container terminals.

(ii) Construction and operation of bulk, break bulk, multipurpose and specialised cargo berths.

(iii) Warehousing, Container Freight Stations, Storage facilities and tank farms.

(iv) Cranage/Handling Equipment.

(v) Setting up of captive power plants.

(vi) Dry docking and ship repair facilities.

(3) Leasing of equipment for port handling and leasing of floating crafts from the private sector.

(4) Pilotage.

(5) Captive facilities for port based industries.

(c) and (d) No such proposal for creation of any new major port in private sector is under consideration of Central Government at present.

Irregularties by traders involved in under-invoicing of Polymer Imports

136. DR. D. VENKATESHWAR RAO: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether irregularities by traders involved in under invoicing particularly of polymer imports have been reported from Kandla Port;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the measures taken to check the loss and stop the malpractice?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T. G. VENKATRAMAN): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Status of order-book of Hindustan Shipyard Ltd.

137. SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the status of the order-book of Hindustan Shipyard Ltd., in Visakhapatnam, A.P.;

(b) whether there is capacity under-utilisation in HSL; and

(c) if so, the steps proposed to make efficient use of its capacity?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN): (a) to (c) Main activities of Hindustan Shipyard Ltd., are shipbuilding, shiprepair and construction of off-shore platforms. While, status of order book for shiprepair is satisfactory to keep capacity fully utilised, there has been capacity under-utilisation for shipbuilding as there are only four orders in hand. As regards, construction of off-shore platform, there are no orders.

In order to improve the order-book position and capacity utilisation, Company is taking steps to reduce its excessive manpower and improve productivity. Besides, the Government has recently approved a ship building subsidy scheme which, *inter-alia,* provides for payment of 30% subsidy by the Govt. both for domestic and export orders; permitting Indian companies to raise External Commercial Borrowings (ECB), etc. The Govt. has also approved capital restructuring of the Company by writing off Govt. loans and interests thereon to the extent of Rs. 470 crores and conversion of loans into equity to the extent of Rs. 120 crores.

Schemes/Projects for improving quality and production of Woollen and Silk Textiles in Assam

138. SHRI PARAG CHALIHA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the steps taken and Schemes/projects launched by the Ministry for improving quality and production of Woollen and Silk textiles in Assam during the 8th Plan period; and

(b) the details of targets and achievements;

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) and (b) Schemes were implemented through Central Wool Development Board, applicable to all States including Assam such as Integrated Sheep and Wool Development Project, Integrated Angora Rabbit Development Project, Machine Shearing-Cum-Training Project, etc. In respect of Silk textiles, with the co-ordination of State sericulture department Central Silk Board implemented a number of schemes and programmes for development of quality silk including Assam. These includes schemes for expansion of R&D, training, infrastructure and extension of support to the sector through net-work Central Silk Board and implementation of certain development/incentives/financial assistance schemes for encouraging efficient and modern sericulture practices. A sepcific action plan for the Northeastern Region including Assam was initiated in collaboration with the State Government. In addition, through the Office of Development Commissioner (Handlooms) various schemes are implemented in all the states including Assam such as setting up of quality dycing units, Handloom development centres, decentralised training schemes, etc. No specific targets, were laid down state-wise in these sectors.

Dues of Maharashtra State Co-operative Cotton Federation on NTC

139. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that National Textile Corporation has to pay outstanding dues to the tune of Rs. 174.19 Crores to the Maharashtra State Co-operative Cotton Federation;

(b) if so, the details of such dues and since when these are pending for payment;

(c) whether it is a fact that the State Government is persuing the matter with the Central Government for the last five years; and